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Kernan Announces Global Trade Expo 2002 in Fort Wayne

INDIANAPOLIS —Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that the city of Fort Wayne will host the international business community at the Global Trade Expo 2002 on Thursday, April 11 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

The event, sponsored by the Indiana Department of Commerce and the City of Fort Wayne Office of International Trade, will allow manufacturers a chance to visit with service providers and attend seminars on trade-related topics. This is the first year for the expo.

"We are pleased to offer Indiana companies the opportunity to get a closer look at the workings of international trade," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "The expo is a prime time for companies to meet each other, network and become more informed about international sales opportunities."

The expo will kick off with a breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. featuring best-selling author Fred Siegel. At noon, Tom McKenna, Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Commerce, and Larry Davidson, professor of Business Economics and Public Policy at the IU Kelley School of Business, will release Indiana export figures for 2001 during a luncheon. Those planning to attend the breakfast and/or luncheon should RSVP by April 5. The cost is \$25 for breakfast and \$35 for lunch.

Exhibits will be open to the public free of charge from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Exhibitors will include freight forwarders, banks, international trade organizations, government agencies, export sales organizations, international accounting firms, consultants, insurance companies and language services. Seminars will be held throughout the day on topics such as global trade resources, forwarding services, sales and marketing, and finance.

For more information about the event or to register for the breakfast or luncheon, contact Karen Sanclemente, Indiana Department of Commerce, at 219.426.8801 (e-mail ksanclemente@commerce.state.in.us) or Ola Schechter, City of Fort Wayne Office of International Trade, at 219.426.5568 (e-mail oschechter@theallianceonline.com).

The International Trade Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce works to bring Indiana companies and the international marketplace together. For information about ITD or its programs, call 317.232.4949 or visit the Web site www.indianacommerce.com.